

## Message Text

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44

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 ACDA-05

MC-02 /067 W

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R 020920Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2216

INFO AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

13TH ADVON UDORN

USSAG NAKHOM PHANOM

DIA WASHDC

CINCPAC HONOLULU

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 5467

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: ADS 10/2/75

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, TH, VN, CB

SUBJ: CHATCHAI ON CONTACTS WITH NORTH VIETNAM AND THE  
TRANSPORTATION OF WEAPONS TO CAMBODIA

FOREIGN MINISTER CHATCHAI CHUNHAWAN HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE  
MARCH 31. FOLLOWING IS AN UNOFFICIAL USIS TRANSLATION OF HIS  
OFF THE RECORD REMARKS ON CONTACTS WITH NORTH VIETNAM AND THE  
TRANSPORTATION OF WEAPONS TO CAMBODIA.

CHATCHAI: PLEASE KEEP THESE STATEMENTS I AM GOING TO MAKE OFF  
THE RECORD. I AM MAKING THE GREATEST EFFORTS TO MAKE CONTACT  
WITH HANOI; THEREFORE SHOULD REPORTS BE PUBLISHED, SUCH AS  
TRANSPORTATION OF WEAPONS, ETC., TO HELP PHNOM PENH, AS WELL  
AS OF COMMODITIES WHICH ARE NOT WEAPONS, IT WOULD CAUSE  
SERIOUS MISUNDERSTANDING AND MAKE IT MOST DIFFICULT FOR ANY  
CONTACT TO BE MADE. IF CONTACT CAN BE MADE WITH HANOI,  
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PRESSURE WOULD BE EASED IN VARIOUS WAYS. IT IS UTTERLY

IMPOSSIBLE FOR US TO GO AND REACH SISOPHON OR BATTAMBANG, BECAUSE BOTH TOWNS ARE COMPLETELY ENCIRCLED. HOW CAN ORDINARY TRUCKS BE SENT WHEN IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO ENTER MUONG NAN ROAD.

REPORTER: ARE WEAPONS BEING TRANSPORTED IN AIRLIFTS OPERATED DAILY?

CHATCHAI: SPEAKING FRANKLY, WE KNOW THAT PHNOM PENH WILL FALL, SO WHAT REASON COULD WE HAVE FOR WEAPONS, AMMUNITION, AND ALL KINDS OF MILITARY SUPPLIES TO BE AIRLIFTED THERE. SOME DAY, RETAILIATION WOULD BE TAKEN AGAINST US. ISN'T THAT TRUE? FURTHERMORE, THE MILITARY SUPPLIES SENT MIGHT FALL INTO THE HANDS OF RED CAMBODIAN FORCES, THEREFORE WE MUST EXERCISE THE GREATEST CARE NOT TO LET ANY WEAPONS OR AMMUNITION TO BE TAKEN THERE. PLEASE PONDER OVER THIS CAREFULLY. IN WHOSE INTERESTS ARE REPORTS SPREAD. FIRST, IF IT IS SAID THAT WE ARE GIVING AID IN THE FORM OF WEAPONS, WHICH IS NOT AT ALL TRUE, IT WOULD MAKE IT INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT FOR US TO CONTACT HANOI AND KHMER ROUGE IN THE FUTURE. ISN'T THAT TRUE? SECOND, WHAT WE FEAR MOST IS THAT WEAPONS WHICH ARE GIVEN MIGHT FALL INTO THE WRONG HANDS AFTER PHNOM PENH FALLS. SOME DAY IN THE FUTURE, THOSE GUNS WOULD BE TURNED ON US. THIS IS WHY WE HAVE TO BE MOST CAREFUL THROUGHOUT. MASTERS

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